

as a core component of outbreak investigations. The rigorous and innovative laboratory work carried out by his team has advanced infectious disease experts' knowledge of many pathogens and their role in the human disease process. These included investigations of hantavirus, leptospirosis, West Nile virus, anthrax, SARS coronaviruses, avian and human influenza viruses, Ebola virus, Zika virus, and numerous transplant-associated infections, to name only a few. As an author of hundreds of publications and numerous textbook chapters, he is widely considered to be among the most influential infectious disease pathologists of his generation.

As chief of IDPB, Dr. Zaki is widely recognized for his personal leadership, scientific contributions, and commitment to CDC's public health mission. Among his many awards are the HHS Secretary's Awards for Distinguished Service, which he received nine times and is the highest honor at HHS. Known and respected for his humbleness, Dr. Zaki was uncomfortable with personal accolades and always quick to point to the efforts of his IDPB colleagues and others. Dr. Zaki was a generous teacher and mentor of younger scientists, friends, and former colleagues.

My prayers are with Dr. Zaki's wife Nadia, his two children, and friends during this difficult time. I am grateful for his dedication at the CDC, and I am honored to recognize his extraordinary contributions today.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JASON JENKINS

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize CMSgt Jason Jenkins for his dedicated service to the U.S. Air Force and the Senate as a Legislative Defense Fellow. Jason served as a vital part of my team in 2020. He was a trusted adviser on issues relating to the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Homeland Security.

Jason's effort and reliability distinguished him as a valuable member of my legislative team. In particular, Jason played an integral role in the recovery of Fort Smith native and World War II combat pilot Lt. Henry Donald Mitchell's remains, a mission 77 years in the making.

Jason took his responsibility to bring his fellow airman home very seriously. His steadfast dedication and persistence were crucial to its success. He worked tirelessly to ensure the United States and Austrian officials, private landowners, and Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency leaders coordinated and engaged to achieve the right outcome. It would not have been possible without the efforts of Jason. He helped bring closure and resolution to Lt. Mitchell's community and loved ones, allowing them to close that chapter and find the comfort that been so elusive after his remains were buried in the Fayetteville National Cemetery.

Jason also diligently worked to help secure resources for our servicemembers, their families, and Arkansans through his support of the Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee and the successful passage of the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act. His passion to serve veterans and their families was demonstrated through his contributions to veteran legislation he advised on, including the John Scott Hannon Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019.

I also want to thank Jason's wife, Jami, and his children, Mike and Skyla, for their support of Jason's continued service to the U.S. Air Force. As the son of an Air Force master sergeant, I understand service to the Armed Forces is a family affair and is impossible without their sacrifice and unconditional support. Jason's son Mike has followed in his dad's footsteps and is currently serving in the U.S. Air Force in London.

A special highlight during Jason's time in my office was his promotion to chief master sergeant, a testament to his family, unlimited potential, and passion to serve others.

Jason, thank you for your continued service to the U.S. Air Force and for your time working in my office. It was our privilege to have you as a part of our team. My office will always welcome you. I know that you will be an asset to whatever future endeavors you pursue, and I wish you and your family the best.

#### TRIBUTE TO SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT CARLOS SANCHEZ

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize SMSgt Carlos Sanchez for his dedicated service to the U.S. Air Force and the Senate as a Legislative Defense Fellow. Carlos has served as a vital part of my team since January 2021. He has been a trusted adviser on issues relating to the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Homeland Security.

Carlos enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 2002. His continued service is a reminder of the sacrifices necessary to maintain the opportunities available to us as U.S. citizens.

Carlos's effort and passion to serve distinguished him as a valuable member of my legislative team. His determination was evident and helped lead to passage of the transformative SAVE LIVES Act, which allowed the VA to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to all veterans and their spouses. When preparing for a Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing earlier this year, Carlos posed a question that led to the introduction and passage of this critical legislation.

Carlos was also instrumental in the final months of the effort that led to the recovery of World War II combat pilot Lt. Henry Donald Mitchell. After years of work by Lt. Mitchell's brother, Bob Mitchell, and my office to lo-

cate and return this Fort Smith native home, Carlos helped ensure the authorities could access and correctly identify Lt. Mitchell.

His desire to serve his fellow airmen was demonstrated through his work in coordinating the first visit by Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force JoAnne Bass to Little Rock Air Force Base. Because of that experience, I believe the needs of our airmen and their families were further elevated and will result in an even higher prioritizing of getting them the resources and support needed to successfully execute their mission.

Carlos's steadfast dedication to serve and support the people of Arkansas has been inspirational. While in Arkansas, he spoke with and listened to the concerns of Arkansan veterans and their families, then worked tirelessly to ensure their concerns were heard and issues were resolved.

We have been very fortunate during Carlos's time in my office. I also want to thank his wife, Laura, and his daughters Sophia and Isabella, for their support of Carlos's time in uniform. As the son of an Air Force master sergeant, I understand service to the Armed Forces is a family affair and is impossible without their sacrifice and unconditional support.

Carlos, thank you for your continued service to the U.S. Air Force and for all your heartfelt, committed work as a member of my staff. It was our privilege to have you as a part of our team, and our office will always welcome you. I know that you will remain an asset to our military and veterans in addition to any other endeavors you pursue, and I wish you and your family the best.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO MARIA GOMEZ

• Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to an extraordinary leader, a visionary healthcare advocate, and a tireless champion for the people of my state and for citizens across the National Capital Region: Maria Gomez. Ms. Gomez is retiring this month after 33 years as the president and CEO of Mary's Center, a renowned federally-qualified health center that she founded in 1988, and which has transformed the lives of countless individuals and families throughout our region. Her tireless efforts to improve the health and well-being of underserved families and individuals in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area have left an indelible mark on our communities, and her lifetime of service has inspired a new generation of activists, advocates, healthcare leaders, and public servants. I would like to share her story today and have the course of her life forever written into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Ms. Gomez immigrated to the United States from Colombia with her mother

at age 13 to escape violence and find new opportunities. Together, they built a life in Washington, DC, through hard work, courage, and the determination to succeed. By means of her own grit and skill, along with the support of a loving mother, Ms. Gomez obtained a bachelor of science in nursing from Georgetown University and a master of public health from the University of California at Berkeley. Following graduation, she returned to the District of Columbia to empower the very same community that had empowered her when she first arrived in the United States.

After first working at DC Health, the Red Cross, and the Visiting Nurses Association, Ms. Gomez founded Mary's Center with a group of health advocates and the DC Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs. Her goal was to help immigrant women fleeing war and poverty in Central America. But what began as the shared vision of one person and a small group of community and government partners would soon grow into a nationally renowned health center that has touched the lives of thousands.

Under Ms. Gomez's leadership, Mary's Center went from serving 200 participants in a small basement with a budget of \$250,000 to serving more than 60,000 participants across seven locations in DC and Maryland, with an annual budget of \$76 million in just over 30 years. The center and the people who work there are committed to providing the highest quality of care to each and every patient, regardless of their ability to pay, and the mission of Mary's Center is guided by core principles of care, education, social justice, and respect. I have had the privilege of visiting Mary's Center locations in my State of Maryland while serving in the Senate, and I have witnessed, firsthand, the extraordinary attention, compassion and professionalism that the entire Mary's Center family brings to everything they do. It is because of their work that so many within our communities can receive support and critical services.

That is Maria Gomez's legacy, and our State and our Nation are deeply grateful for all she has given to our fellow citizens in need. Her extraordinary achievements have made Ms. Gomez one of the most effective and highly regarded leaders in the region and throughout the country. It was Ms. Gomez's hard work and dedication that led First Lady Michelle Obama to choose Mary's Center for her first official visit to a nonprofit organization in February 2009. In 1995, First Lady Hillary Clinton also visited Mary's Center during National Immunization Week in recognition of the center's efforts to get children vaccinated and ready to learn and thrive in school. What is more, President Barack Obama selected Maria Gomez as one of the 18 recipients of the 2012 Presidential Citizens Medal, the Nation's second-highest civilian honor, as a testament to her leadership and service.

Ms. Gomez has accrued decades of wisdom over the course of her distinguished career, and she has always been willing to share that wisdom and knowledge with those who seek it. DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, as well as former Mayors Vincent Gray and Adrian Fenty, named her to their mayoral transition teams. She currently serves as cochair of the Human Services, Social Services, and Health Committee of the DC Mayor's ReOpen DC Advisory Group for COVID-19, and she is a member of the Mayor's Commission on Healthcare Systems Transformations, which makes recommendations on strategies and investments necessary to transform healthcare in the District of Columbia.

Ms. Gomez also shares her expertise by serving as a board member for the DC Primary Care Association and the Primary Care Coalition of Montgomery County. She is a member of the Suburban Hospital Board of Trustees, is co-chair of the Latino Health Steering Committee of Montgomery County, and serves on the advisory boards for the Smithsonian American Women History Initiative, the DC Fiscal Policy Institute, and the AmeriHealth Caritas National FQHC Initiative. In addition, she is a member of the Washington Housing Conservancy—WHC—Board.

While Ms. Gomez is the recipient of numerous well-earned awards and accolades, no medal or trophy that we can give to her can truly speak to all that she has given us throughout her inspiring life and career. She has been a beacon of hope for so many families in need over the past three decades. She leaves behind a legacy of deep compassion for all whom she has met and known and helped and served. Ms. Gomez's colleagues regard her as a strong leader, a dedicated mentor, and a friend to all, and the entire Mary's Center community treasures the warmth, grace, and respect she has imparted throughout the organization these past 33 years.

Our Nation's Capital is healthier and stronger because of Maria Gomez's many years of visionary leadership and dedicated service. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude to her and in extending our best wishes to her and to her husband Michael Rexrode and daughter Amalia—as she begins the next chapter of her life of service to her community and her country.●

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2833. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2834. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and a Management Report for the period from April 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2835. A communication from the Chair, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2836. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2021, including the Office of Inspector General's Auditor's Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2837. A communication from the Chairman of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2838. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2839. A communication from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2840. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Increasing the Minimum Wage for Federal Contractors" (RIN1235-AA41) received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2841. A communication from the Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2842. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-238, "Sense of the Council Medicare for All Support Resolution of 2021"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2843. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, the President's Pay Agent, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the extension of locality based comparability payments; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2844. A communication from the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2845. A communication from the Chairman, Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Postal Services' Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021; to